

Message Text

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USUN FOR LINDA LANDE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PLAB, ILO

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE

1. PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR DEPT OF STATE NOON BRIEFING
JUNE 21 FOLLOWS:

Q. WHAT HAPPENED IN THE ILO YESTERDAY (JUNE 20)?

A. THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE ILO 63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR
CONFERENCE YESTERDAY REJECTED THE REPORT OF ITS COMMITTEE
ON THE APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS BY A VOTE OF 135 FOR,
NONE AGAINST, AND 197 ABSTENTIONS. (UNDER ILO RULES, THE
MOTION TO ADOPT THE REPORT FAILED FOR LACK OF A QUORUM.)

THE REPORT CITED EFFORTS BY THE ILO COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS TO
UNDERTAKE AN INVESTIGATION WITH RESPECT FOR DUE PROCESS OF
THE CONDITIONS OF ARAB WORKERS IN ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED
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TERRITORIES. THE REPORT ALSO ADDRESSED CRITICALLY LABOR
CONDITIONS IN ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, CHILE, CZECHOSLOVAKIA,
ETHIOPIA, LIBERIA AND UGANDA. IT CONTAINED SPECIAL PARA-
GRAPHS MILDLY CRITICAL OF SOVIET COMPLIANCE WITH ILO HUMAN
RIGHTS CONVENTIONS.

WE WERE ENCOURAGED WHEN THE ILO COMMITTEE ON THE APPLICA-

TION OF CONVENTIONS APPROVED THE REPORT FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PLENARY. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE STRONG SUPPORT THE DELEGATES FROM THE INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES HAVE GIVEN THE CAUSE OF DUE PROCESS AND RESPECT FOR CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES. THE NEGATIVE VOTE IN PLENARY, ENGINEERED BY RESORT TO PROCEDURAL PECULIARITIES IN THE ILO, WAS THEREFORE A GENUINE SETBACK TO THE CAUSE OF GAINING EVEN-HANDED TREATMENT OF ALL ILO MEMBERS IN THE INVESTIGATIONS OF THEIR COMPLIANCE WITH ILO HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS.

Q. DOES THIS MEAN THE US WILL PULL OUT?

A. AS THE US SAID IN ITS LETTER OF INTENT:

"THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT DESIRE TO LEAVE THE ILO. THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT EXPECT TO DO SO. BUT WE DO INTEND TO MAKE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO PROMOTE THE CONDITIONS WHICH WILL FACILITATE OUR CONTINUED PARTICIPATION. IF THIS SHOULD PROVE IMPOSSIBLE, WE ARE IN FACT PREPARED TO DEPART"

WE WILL ASSESS THE US POSITION TOWARD THE ILO AFTER WE HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO DISCUSS THE CONFERENCE AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ILO WITH OUR DELEGATION AND OTHER KEY PARTIES INTERESTED IN THE ORGANIZATION.

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Q. IS THIS "THE GRAVEST BLOW EVER DEALT TO THE UN SYSTEM?"

A. THE PLENARY DECISION, AS I SAID, WAS A GENUINE SETBACK TO THE CAUSE OF DUE PROCESS AND EVEN-HANDED TREATMENT IN HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS.

2. EXCHANGES ON ILO AT JUNE 21 BRIEFING TO FOLLOW SEPTTEL.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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